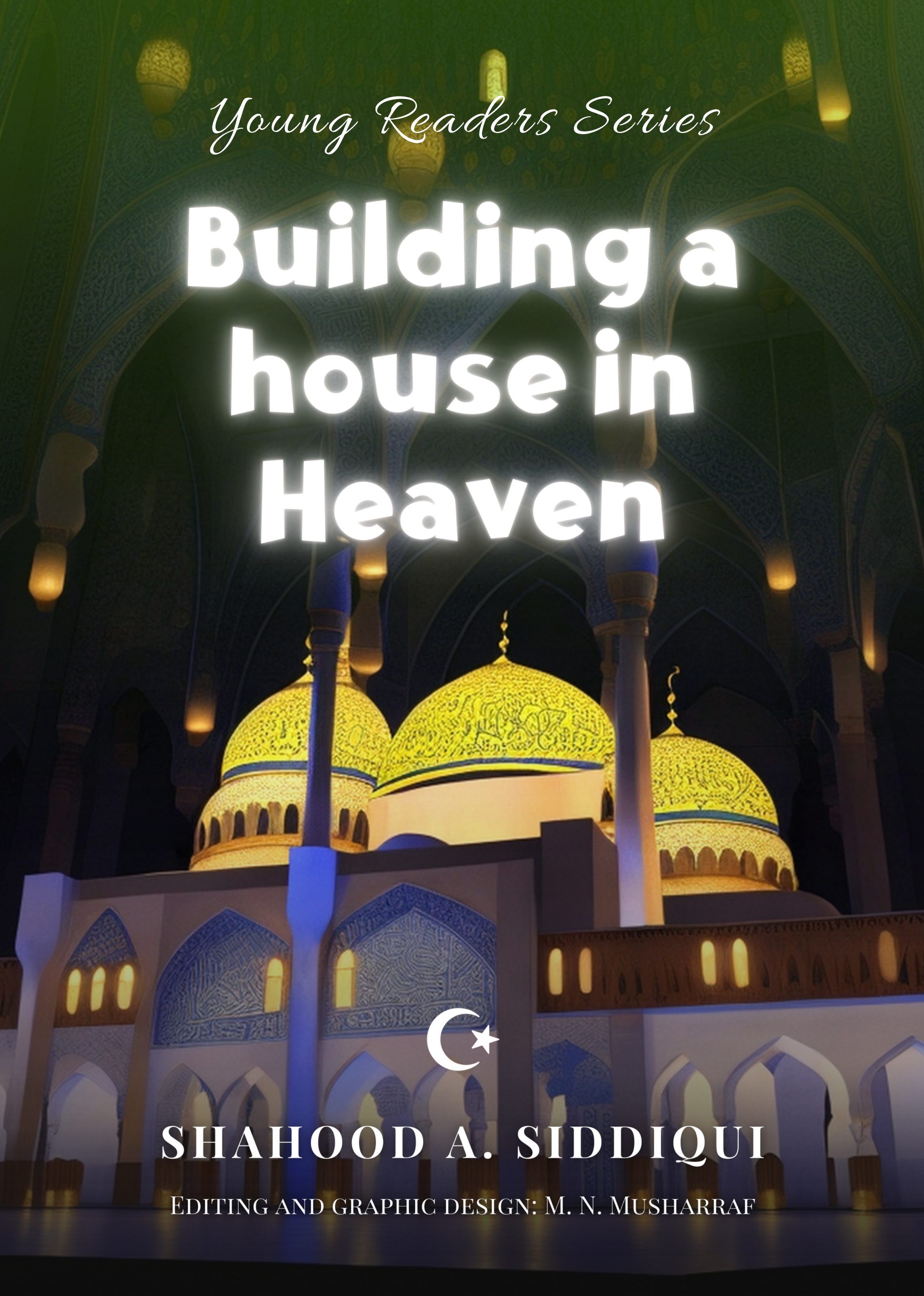
Young Readers Series

Building a house in Heaven



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Ummul Qura Masjid Project

Our vision for UMMUL QURA MASJID AND COMMUNITY CENTRE (being built at 64 Eva St. Maddington, Western Australia) is that it should be as closely aligned as possible to the model of the Masjid of our beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. You can also become a part of this great Sadaqa Jariyyah opportunity by spending your time, effort, and money on this noble cause. An overview of some of the planned services from this center are as follows:

CONGREGATIONAL PRAYERS

WEEKEND SCHOOL

WOMEN SHELTER (DAAR AYESHA)

BOYS HOSTEL (IBN AS-SABEEL)

3 PLAY AREAS FOR CHILDREN

YOUTH GYM

BAYTUL HIKMAH LIBRARY

ISLAMIC BOOKSTORE

MARRIAGE CELEBRANTS

CLASSROOMS AND EDUCATION

DAWAH ACTIVITIES AND HALAQAT

SPORTS ACTIVITIES

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بِسۡمِ ٱللَّهِ ٱلرَّحۡمَٰنِ ٱلرَّحِيمِ

Sama-O-Basr

لِوَجۡهِ ٱللَّهِ لَا نُرِيدُ مِنكُمۡ جَزَآءً وَلَا شُكُورًا

Only for Allah's pleasure! We neither seek reward from you nor thanks.

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About this book

iCAN considers it extremely important to provide holistic nurturing and development opportunities to children spanning over intellectual, spiritual, social, and emotional realms. We have a dedicated department that looks after this highly important task - Young Muslims Network Australia (YMNA). YMNA organises a number of programs and activities across Australia. This book is one of YMNA's contributions toward nurturing our future leaders.

Acknowledgements: iCAN Sama-O-Basr is grateful to Br. Irfan Ikhtiar and Br. Muhammad Hammadullah for proof-reading this book.

بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم
لا إله إلا الله محمد رسول الله

Foreword

Asalamu Alaikum - Peace and blessings be upon you!

In this book, you will find a testament to the incredible power of faith, community, and the unyielding pursuit of a brighter world. This is the journey of inspiration, resilience, and the shared vision that binds us all.

This book is more than just words; it's a reflection of the profound beauty that blossoms when individuals come together in the name of peace and goodwill. It's a tribute to the Ummul Qura Masjid and Community Centre, a place that exemplifies the unity of purpose.

As you explore these pages, consider the wisdom of a Hadith from our beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ: "He who built a mosque for Allah, Allah would build a house for him likewise in Paradise." (Sahih Muslim, 1190). This timeless saying encapsulates the boundless blessings that flow from our communal efforts. It reminds us that our actions have the potential to shape our eternal rewards.

Through the stories and insights shared here, I hope that you will feel the echoes of these teachings resonating within your heart. May they serve as a reminder of the strength that emerges when we stand together, driven by a common purpose and a shared dream.
JazakAllah Khairan.

Shahood Alam, Melbourne

STORY

One

BUILDING A HOUSE IN JANNAH

The Messenger of Allah ﷺ told us that Allah SWT said: 'I have prepared for My righteous worshippers, what no eye has seen, nor ear has heard, and no human heart has conceived!'

JAMI` AT-TIRMIDHI 3292 - HASAN

The Cafe Encounter

In a quaint cafe tucked away in Perth, Australia, Minha and Shaharun found themselves catching up over cups of tea. The air was tinged with the first hints of autumn, and the excitement in their voices was tangible.

"Shaharun," Minha began, leaning forward with a curious smile, "have you heard about the new Ummul Qura Masjid and Community Centre that's coming up in Perth?"

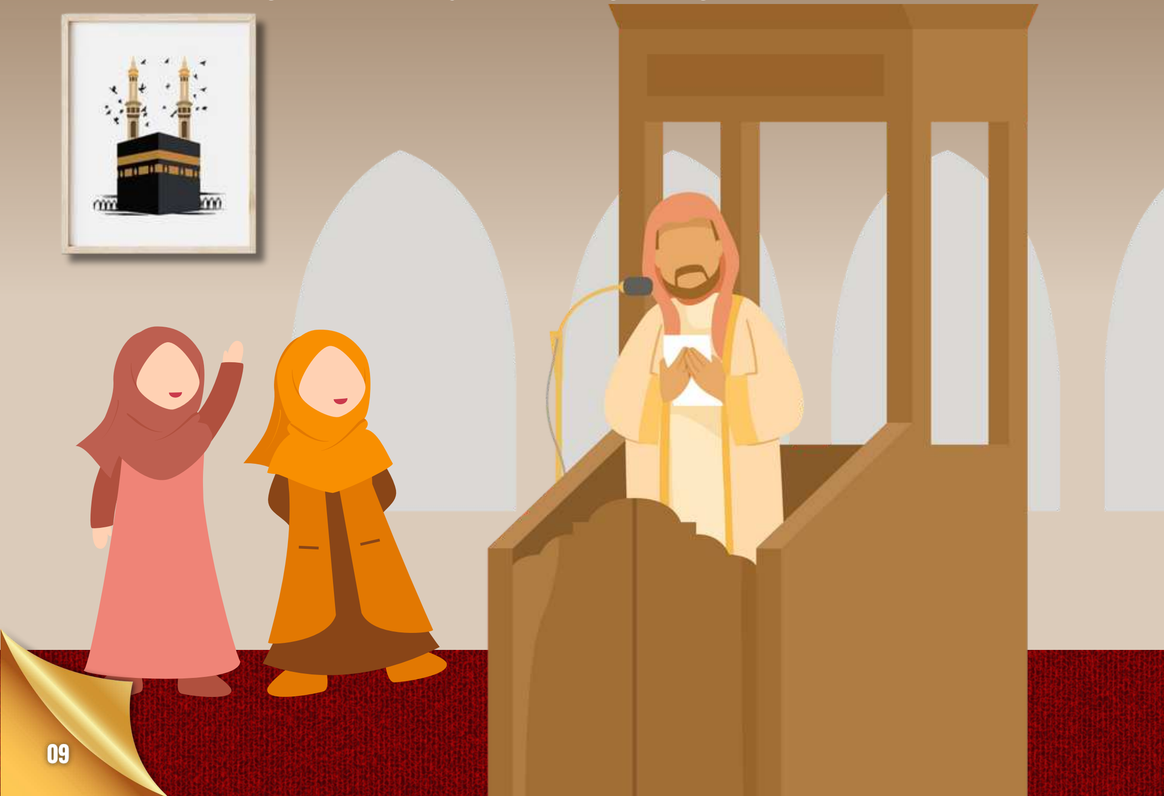
Shaharun's eyes lit up, and she nodded enthusiastically. "Oh, absolutely! It's quite a remarkable project. Let me tell you all about it!"

A Vision Beyond Prayer

With a sense of anticipation, Shaharun launched into the details of the project, her excitement contagious. "You see, it's not just going to be a regular mosque. They're envisioning a community centre that will bring people together for more than just prayers; something that we learn from how the masjid of our beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ used to function!"

Minha's interest grew, and she leaned in closer. "Really? What makes it so special?"

Shaharun's smile widened as she began to list the highlights. "First off, they're going to have congregational prayers, which is amazing. But that's just the beginning!"



Shelter and Support

Shaharun's voice took on a deeper tone as she continued, "They're also planning to have a shelter home for women in crisis. It's named Dar-e-Ayesha, after the name of Prophet Muhammad's ﷺ beloved wife.. It's such a powerful initiative, reflecting the essence of compassion."

Minha's eyes shone with admiration. "That's truly remarkable. It reminds me of the Hadith about building a house for Allah." Shaharun nodded, her excitement undiminished. "Exactly! And that's not all. They're incorporating a range of elements to cater to different needs of the community."

Nurturing Minds and Bodies

As Shaharun spoke, she delved into the centre's educational and recreational offerings. "They're setting up a library and bookstore, creating a space for knowledge and learning. And guess what? Indoor sports activities and community workshops are also part of the plan!"

Minha's eyebrows raised in surprise. "That's quite holistic. They're really investing in the community's well-being."

Bridging Gaps and Fostering Unity

The conversation took an interfaith turn, and Shaharun's voice grew animated. "Absolutely! They're organising interfaith dawah events, aiming to build bridges between communities of different faiths. It's a beautiful way to foster understanding."

Minha nodded thoughtfully. "I can imagine the positive impact that will have."

Youth and Future Generations

Shaharun's excitement bubbled over as she shared the centre's vision for the youth. "And that's not all. They're thinking about the youth too! They're planning a student's hostel and a Sunday school, as well as various youth activities. There is a plan to build an outdoor nature play area too!"

Minha's eyes gleamed. "It's like they're creating a haven for growth and development."

Spiritual nurturing

Shaharun's voice softened as she talked about the spiritual aspects. "Yes, indeed. They're planning to provide spaces to men and women to conduct Quran and Hadith circles, fostering deep reflection and connection with the Divine."

Minha smiled warmly. "It's evident that this project is about more than just bricks and mortar."

Inspiration and Motivation

As the cafe encounter drew to a close, Shaharun and Minha exchanged a knowing look. "Minha," Shaharun said with a determined tone, "we should spread the word about this project. It's a chance to contribute to something truly remarkable."

Minha's smile mirrored Shaharun's resolve. "Absolutely. Sharing this vision is a way to inspire others and encourage them to be a part of something bigger."

Inspiration and Motivation

With their hearts ignited by their conversation, Shaharun and Minha left the cafe that day with a renewed sense of purpose. They carried the story of the Ummul Qura Masjid and Community Centre with them, sowing the seeds of inspiration wherever they went. Little did they know, their enthusiasm would become the catalyst for a wave of support that would help turn the project's vision into a reality.

STORY *Two*

MADINAH ECHOES WITH THE MOST BEAUTIFUL CALL

"Whoever says when he hears the call to prayer, 'I testify there is no God but Allah alone, without any partner, and Muhammad is His servant and His messenger, I am pleased with Allah as a Lord, with Muhammad as a messenger, and with Islam as a religion,' then his sins will be forgiven."

Saheeh Muslim 386

The Quest for a Solution

In a gathering of his devoted companions, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ acknowledged the complexity of a pressing issue. The atmosphere was charged with speculation and contemplation as the companions sought a resolution to a problem they were facing. When the Muslims came to Madinah, they were able to offer Salah behind Prophet Muhammad ﷺ in congregation. However, they were finding it hard to identify the time for Salah. Certain visual cues were given to them to work out the times for prayers, but a little error in judgement could mean that they would miss praying behind the beloved, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ. This was not bearable for the devotees to miss the blessing of being close to the light that illuminated their lives and brought them out of the darkness of ignorance.

Seeking answers

The companions kept thinking about a solution and began brainstorming about the possible options. “Let us use a bell like the bell of the Christians”, some companions proposed. Others said, “let us use the ram’s horn, called shofar that the Jews use.” Another group of companions suggested that a flag should be raised when the time for Salah would come, and when people would see it they will call one another to come for prayer. Each suggestion, however, was met with concerns about mirroring practices from other faiths and not being able to properly address the issue at hand. Being a universal religion, Islam proposes those solutions which are not bound by time, place and people. Such a solution was searched in this matter too.

A Unique Solution

Amidst the discussions, Umar (RA) offered a unique idea. He proposed appointing a single person to personally call each individual to Salah. This suggestion was met with a sense of possibility, despite the challenges of reaching every Muslim in the growing city of Madinah.

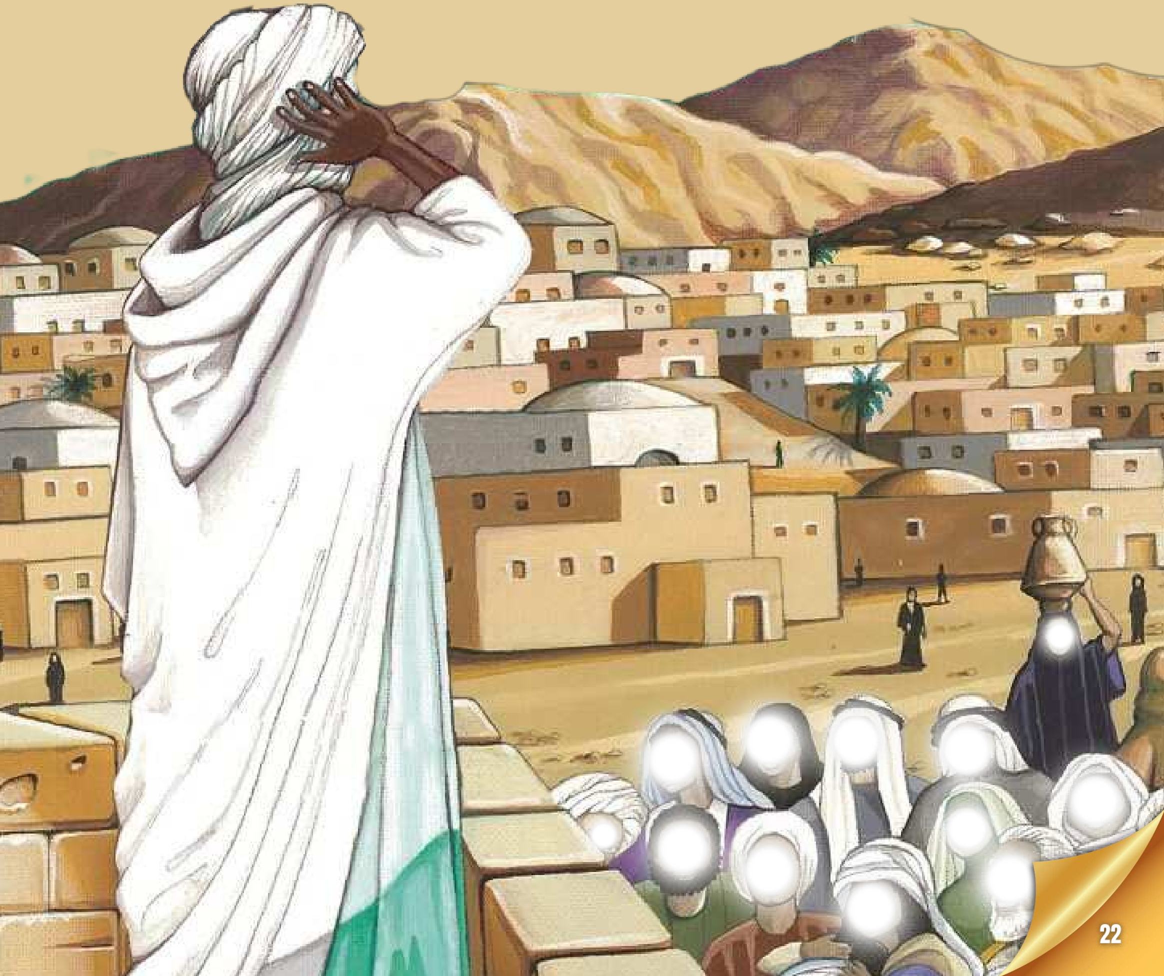
An Inspiring Dream

Abd-Allah ibn Zayd (RA), one of the companions of the beloved Prophet Muhammad ﷺ left the gathering of the companions while being immersed in thoughts about how this issue could be resolved. That night, he saw an amazing dream. Narrating his dream to Prophet Muhammad ﷺ, he said: I saw a man carrying a bell in his hand. I said, “O slave of Allah, will you sell that bell?” he said, “What will you do with it?” I said, “We will call the people to Salah with it.” He said, “Shall I not show you something better than that?” I said, “Yes.” He said, “Say, Allah is most Great, Allah is most Great, Allah is most Great, Allah is most Great. I bear witness that there is no god but Allah, I bear witness that there is no god but Allah. I bear witness that Muhammad ﷺ is the Messenger of Allah, I bear witness that Muhammad ﷺ is the Messenger of Allah. Come to Salah, come to Salah. Come to success, come to success. Allah is most Great, Allah is most Great. There is no god but Allah.” Then he went a short distance away from me, and then looked at me again and taught me the words of Iqamah which is said just before the prayer stands.

ADAPTED FROM AN ILLUSTRATION BY SR. SHAHADA SHARELLE ABDUL HAQQ

Divine Approval

Upon hearing Abd-Allah's (RA) dream, Prophet Muhammad ﷺ confirmed the truth of the dream as his heart was given comfort in it by Allah SWT. He instructed Abd-Allah (RA) to teach these words to Bilal (RA), known for his beautiful and resonant voice. Bilal (RA) learned the Adhan from Abd-Allah (RA) and his voice received the blessing of chanting the glory of Allah SWT and His messenger to call people to Salah.



Salah is better than sleep!

In the call for the dawn Salah, Fajr, Bilal (RA) added a phrase: "As-salatu khairun min an-naum" (Salah is better than sleep), recited twice. Prophet Muhammad ﷺ approved this addition. In this manner, Bilal's (RA) voice used to wake people up from sleep. On hearing the call from him, they used to leave their warm beds in winter and comfortable sleeps during summer in order to gather in the house of Allah. Men as well as women used to come for Fajr salah at the masjid. The women were, however, given the concession that they could also pray at home, as required.

Lessons learnt

One can learn many lessons from this journey of establishing the adhan. Let's review some key ones.

System of decision-making:

Decision-making in Islam is linked to consultation (called 'shura'). Every voice is heard and respected. The leader examines all suggestions on merit and selects what he finds to be the best. The preference is given to the most meritorious suggestion; it does not matter whether that suggestion came from a junior person or the senior like Umar Ibn Al-Khattab.

Do not imitate the non-Muslims in their religious matters:

From the manner of assessing different options in the story of establishing Adhan, we understand that Muslims are prohibited to imitate disbelievers in their religious matters. We should not adopt their religious practices even if we see the society at large indulged in them. We have our own beautiful faith which provides guidance about every walk of life. The more we read about it, the more we fall in love with it. Let’s celebrate its brilliance and thank Allah SWT for blessing us with it and the guidance of His messenger ﷺ.

Other lessons

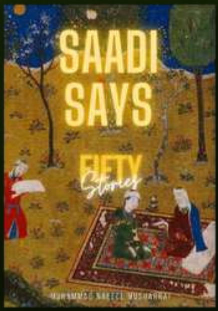
- This story also shows us the concern of the companions and our beloved Prophet Muhammad for the Salah. Salah was the coolness of their eyes so they wished to be there in the masjid as the time for Salah came and hence they were looking for a call to be made for Salah. We should also strive to make Salah the focal point of our lives.

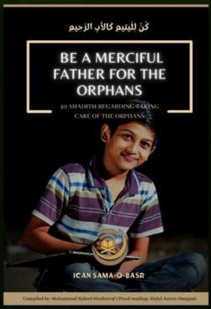
- The status is Islam is not linked to how much wealth one has, the color of one's skin, or one's family. The nobility is due to the character. That is why Bilal (RA) who once used to be a slave beaten around in the streets of Makkah became the 'Syed' (the noble leader) of the Muslims. Everyone, rich or poor, used to turn to Masjid upon his call.

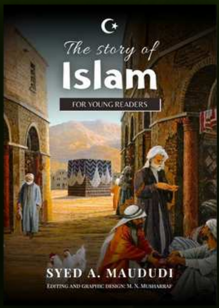
- The wording of Adhan sets our priorities straight. It tells us that Allah SWT is bigger than whatever we are engaged in - work, sleep, video games, mobiles, cricket, footy and everything else. Nothing should stop us from availing the wonderful opportunity to connect with our Creator through Salah.

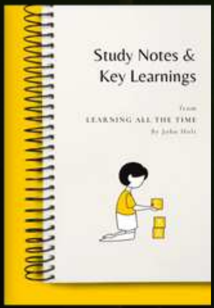
Let us aim to make Allah SWT, our beloved Messenger ﷺ, and our beautiful Deen our number 1 priority. Let's aim to let our life, not our words, tell the story of our extreme love! May Allah SWT guide us all and engulf in His limitlesss mercy.

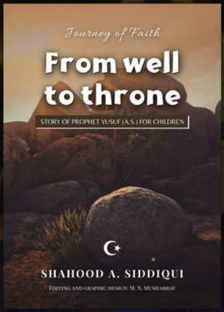
Some of our other books

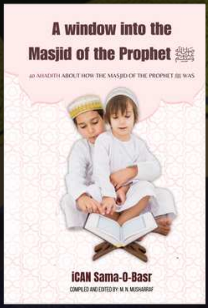












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